

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, why does the majority continue to resist a ban on gifts from lobbyists? We hear them telling the American people they are for openness in Government. They say they want to "shine some sunlight on this institution." Well, Mr. Speaker, I ask that some light be shed on this question: Why did the majority oppose us on the first day of the 104th Congress when we offered an amendment to ban gifts from lobbyists?

On Tuesday night, the President asked us not to wait for legislation. He asked us to start now by adopting individual office policies not to accept gifts from lobbyists. Mr. Speaker, I did that in 1993, as did many of my reform-minded colleagues.

Many more of us will heed the President's request. Mr. Speaker, I urge the majority to join in our effort to clean up Congress. Now is the time to prove to the American people that we stand for real reform.

A GREAT NIGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last night was a great night for the cause of liberty.

Not only did we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, but we also proved to the American people that, working together under Republican leadership, we can move this country forward, and we showed the American people that they were right to trust Republicans with the responsibility of leading this Nation.

But our work is just beginning. We still have a long way to go. We have to pass an unfunded-mandates bill, a crime bill, a line-item-veto bill, and the other items in the Contract With America.

Still, we are off to a great start. We have reformed Congress, and we have now taken the first step towards finally balancing the budget.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said it could not be done. What is even more shocking is that some of them said it should not be done. But by passing the balanced budget amendment, we proved last night that things really are changing in Washington.

ENACT LOBBYING REFORM

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, you know, the President was right when he addressed us on Tuesday night: Congress cannot be for sale. We cannot have the appearance that Members of Congress are for sale.

Imagine, if you would, if we keep going the direction we are, Members of Congress looking like race car drivers with various parts of our anatomy adorned with the corporate logos of those companies who come here to lobby; your sleeve could say IBM, the other sleeve could say AT&T, you could have a ballcap on that would say General Motors, or a tie that would flash Gannett.

This is the whole idea.

I could see the House, or Congress, in fact, could end up looking like Three Rivers Stadium with corporate banners hanging from the backs of the galleries.

We must first act voluntarily so that Members say Congress is not for sale, and they do not accept those gifts.

Next we must enact strong legislation. Last year the House voted on two separate occasions by margins of 3 to 1, yet on January 4, the first day of this Congress, it was the Democrats that moved to impose the tough gift restrictions and royalty limits, but not one single member of the opposition party would join us in that, and I know there are Members over there, if they give it a second thought, would be much stronger.

THE BURDEN OF UNFUNDED MANDATES

(Mr. MARTINI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, most of us know how difficult it is to be a local official. Let us not make it any tougher. The burden of unfunded mandates had not gone away since last week.

Local governments are still toiling under their yoke losing money in paperwork complying with one-size-fits-all regulations from Congress.

I ask the opponents of this bill, how many times do you need to hear the following before you understand: There is nothing in this bill that prevents us from passing an unfunded mandate if we deem it in the national interest.

The difference this legislation will make is that from now on, we will be fully aware of what we are mandating. Before this legislation, all we knew was the good we wanted to do. After we pass this bill, we will also know what it costs to do the good. The latter is just as important as the former.

HELP US PASS LOBBYING REFORM

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a community organizer, I was a farmer, and, you know, nobody gave me any gifts to encourage me to do my job.

I do not see why it should be any different now I am in Congress. Well, on January 4 the Democrats put forward a bill to ban gifts from lobbyists, but,

you know, we failed in that bill, and we failed because not one Republican would join us in banning gifts from lobbyists.

Now, last October Speaker GINGRICH said he would work to pass a bill that would ban gifts from special interests, so now, Mr. Speaker, we have a bill; we have a bill that would do just that, House Resolution 40, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BRYANT]. It will do that.

Let us, all of us, pass that bill. But, you know, we are going to need Republicans to help us do that, so let us do the job we were sent to do. We are paid to do it. We do not need gifts from people who just want to influence us.

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CHANGE MEANS LESS GOVERNMENT, MORE FREEDOM

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, "The country needs and, unless I mistake its temper, the country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

These words were spoken by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. True words are timeless. Today, the Republicans are going the answer the country's demand for less Government and more freedom. Common sense tells us that the burgeoning bureaucracy of the past 40 years has failed. So it is time to try something else. The balanced budget has passed. A presidential line item veto, term limits, cutting spending first, and cutting taxes will follow.

Our country can no longer afford to hold on to the 40 years of failed methods simply for sentimental reasons. The rationale that "that's the way we've always done it" no longer applies. It is not good enough to try more and more of the same thing. We must try something different. And we will start with keeping our promises.

DEAL OF THE CENTURY

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago today the House Ethics Committee was appointed. I call on the Ethics Committee to begin an immediate in-depth investigation into the deal-of-the-century book deal. The Ethics Committee must review this contract and possible conflicts immediately. I am sure they will find the necessity to call for an independent counsel.

Mr. Speaker, the House deserves to know how long this relationship or partnership has been ongoing. The Republicans should not oppose having an independent counsel to review this